ports is permitted on a case to case basis after careful consideration of all relevant factors. Institutional mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that selection of the private operator is made after thorough scrutiny of his credentials.

Prime Minister's talks with Pakistan President

*34. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had a telephonic conversation with the President of Pakistan and asked him to stop the terrorist activities in India from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the President of Pakistan asked the Prime Minister to intimate the proofs in this regard; and

(c) Government's reaction in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) In a telephonic conversation with President Musharraf of Pakistan, who rang PM on 31 October 2005 to express condolences for the victims of the serial bomb blasts in New Delhi on 29 October, PM told the President of Pakistan that the country was outraged at these heinous acts of terrorism. PM again drew President Musharraf's attention to Pakistan's commitment to end cross-border terrorism and said that India continues to be disturbed and dismayed at indications of the external linkages of terrorist groups in regard to the October 29 bombing. PM said India expects Pakistan to act against terrorism directed at India consistent with its commitment that no territory under its control would be used for terrorist activity directed against India.

President Musharraf said the blasts should be investigated and that action would be taken against those responsible.

Implementation of minimum wages

*35. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has held recently that 'equal pay for equal work' is not for the daily wage earners; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking for implementation of minimum wages to the wage earners?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 ensures that the minimum wages of scheduled employments fixed by the appropriate Government are paid to the workers. The enforcement of the Act is secured by the Central and State Governments in their respective spheres. Under the provisions of the Act, the appropriate Government officials conduct regular inspections and advice the employers to make payment of minimum wages whenever they come across any case of non-payment or less payment of wages. In case of non-adherence of the advice, there are legal and penal provisions under the Act.

Nuclear technology agreement with USA

*36. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the nuclear technology agreement signed by the Prime Minister during his visit to the US, recently;

(b) the progress made so far on the technology;

(c) whether it is a fact that the US Government has asked India to separate the military and civilian nuclear installations;

(d) if so, the time frame by which it has to be done; and

(e) the details of the response of the Indian Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The understanding on civil nuclear energy cooperation set out in the India-US Joint Statement issued on July 18,2005 during the visit of the Prime Minister to the US is significant in the context of India's quest for energy security in a cleaner and more efficient manner. The elements of this understanding contained in the Joint Statement are as follows:

- President Bush conveyed his appreciation to the Prime Minister over India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation and stated that as a responsible state with advanced nuclear